

HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner

UPDATE

March 1 - June 30, 2006

The following is an update of the activities of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner's Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program. The last report (2005-2006 Status Report to the Washington State Legislature) was issued in April and contained data through Feb. 2006.

The Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program serves as an intermediary between the claimants and the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC). It was transferred from Seattle to our Consumer Advocacy division in Tumwater on March 1. Since that time, the program has been run by two compliance analysts with over 13 years of experience in handling consumer complaint investigations against insurers and their claim handling practices. From March 1 – June 30, our program helped Holocaust claimants resolve processing delays and collect awards. We also reviewed denials and assisted three claimants in writing appeals. During this period, we worked on 82 claimant files and helped claimants with offers on Holocaust era life insurance claims totaling \$238,085.

In addition, our program representatives participated in three ICHEIC conference calls and worked with regulators in other states to resolve questions and concerns involving Washington claimants.

Status of Washington claims

Each month, the Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program receives and reviews reports from ICHEIC on the status and progress of Washington claims.

According to the latest available monthly ICHEIC report dated June 30:

- 860 claims from Washington State have been filed with ICHEIC.
- 123 Washington claimants received offers.
- 528 Washington claims have been denied.
- 72 Washington claims still remain to be processed.
- 126 Washington claims have been determined to be invalid.
- 11 Washington claimants filed Non-Life (Property) claims.
- To date, the grand total of offers made to Washington claimants is \$1,044,315.

On May 19, Mara Rudman, Chief Operating Officer of ICHEIC sent a memorandum to the ICHEIC member companies announcing the closure of ICHEIC's claims division on June 30. The appeals division will close on Dec. 31, 2006. March 2007 was announced as the date for ICHEIC to cease operations.

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However, ICHEIC sent a separate e-mail on May 30 to members of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and others working to resolve Holocaust era claims, assuring regulators that they would continue to have access to ICHEIC staff and assistance in helping to resolve any outstanding claims.

Lawrence S. Eagleburger, Chairman of ICHEIC reported in a June 30 memorandum that ICHEIC participants had met their claims processing goal of distributing over 42,000 decision letters on all claims with the exception of four humanitarian awards and 100 claims still in process by their member company, Generali. Offers to all claimants world-wide currently total \$252.65 million. This figure is anticipated to rise as decision letters are recorded and verified by ICHEIC in the next few weeks.

The Holocaust Survivors Assistance Program will continue to work with ICHEIC and consumers, making sure that no Washington claimants are overlooked or treated unfairly.

Consumers with concerns or questions about their Holocaust era insurance claims are encouraged to continue to contact our office for assistance. Call us toll-free at 1-800-562-6900 and ask for either Mary Childers or Chris Bauer, or e-mail them at marych@oic.wa.gov or chrisb@oic.wa.gov.



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Mike Kreidler - *State Insurance Commissioner*

